

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 16785 280346Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03 IO-10

/072 W

----- 097157

R 271836Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0797

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16785

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CN

SUBJECT: COMORO ISLANDS

REF: PARIS 12002 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. TO THE SURPRISE OF MOST OBSERVERS, THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN VOTING JUNE 26 TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THE COMORO ISLANDS AMENDED THE GOVERNMENT BILL IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO PUT INTO QUESTION THE FUTURE TERRITORIAL UNITY OF THE ARCHIPELAGO. THE AMENDMENT, PROPOSED BY MICHEL DEBRE AND OTHER SUPPORTERS OF "SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF MAYOTTE" AND EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE DOM/TOM STIRN, PROVIDES FOR THE DRAFTING, WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE LAW, BY A CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL COMORIAN POLITICAL GROUPS, OF A DRAFT CONSTITUTION "GUARANTEEING THE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS OF THE CITIZENS AND THE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONALITY OF THE ISLANDS COMPOSING THE FUTURE STATE". THIS DRAFT CONSTITUTION WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO A REFERENDUM, BEFORE THE PROCLAMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 16785 280346Z

OF INDEPENDENCE, AT A DATE TO BE FIXED BY THE

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE. IT MUST BE APPROVED, ISLAND BY ISLAND, BY A MAJORITY VOTE. IF ONE OR SEVERAL ISLANDS REJECT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, THE COMMITTEE MUST SUBMIT A NEW DRAFT TEXT WITHIN THREE MONTHS. IF THE LATTER IS NOT APPROVED BY ALL THE ISLANDS, THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WOULD APPLY ONLY TO THOSE ISLANDS WHICH APPROVED IT.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

COMMENT: MAYOTTE, WITH ITS RELATIVELY LARGE FRENCH AND NATIVE CHRISTIAN POPULATION, WAS THE ONLY ISLAND TO VOTE AGAINST INDEPENDENCE (63 PER CENT) IN LAST DECEMBER'S REFERENDUM IN WHICH COMORO OPTED MASSIVELY FOR INDEPENDENCE. IN KEEPING WITH UN DOCTRINE SUPPORTING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF DEPENDENT AREAS AND TO PRESERVE ITS THIRD WORLD IMAGE, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WANTED TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE ON A "GLOBAL" BASIS. IT CLEARLY MISJUDGED THE STRENGTH OF PARLIAMENTARY SENTIMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE UDR, FAVORING THE RIGHT OF MAYOTTE TO DECIDE ITS OWN DESTINY SEPARATE FROM THE WISHES OF THE OTHER ISLANDS WITH THEIR DIFFERENT RELIGION AND CULTURE. LINGERING HOPES AMONG SOME FRENCH MILITARY TO RETAIN A FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE COMOROS MAY ALSO HAVE INFLUENCED SOME DEPUTIES. THE BILL NOW GOES TO THE SENATE WHERE IT IS LIKELY TO BE APPROVED IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

THE QUAI (COMBAL) EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US JUNE 27 ABOUT INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO THE AMENDMENT. FRANCE WILL, OF COURSE, BE OPEN TO ADDITIONAL CHARGES OF COLONIAL MANIPULATION IN AFRICA. THIS DEVELOPMENT COMES AT A TIME WHEN FRANCE IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM AFRICAN AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF ITS POLICIES TOWARDS DJIBOUTI AND SOUTH AFRICA AND IS THUS PARTICULARLY UNWELCOME TO THE QUAI WHICH HOPED TO BE ABLE AT THIS FALL'S UNGA TO POINT WITH PRIDE TO FRENCH DECOLONIZATION IN THE COMOROS.
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMORO ISLANDS, INDEPENDENCE, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS16785
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750224-0819
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975069/aaaaahvf.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 12002
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMORO ISLANDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, CN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006